the same would depend on availability of resources for investment in this area keeping in view overall needs of the country.

Welfare of freedom fighters

1648. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken for the welfare of old and incapacitafed freedom fighters;

(b) whether homes for old freedom fighters and incapacitated freedom fighters have been established by the Central Government;

(c) if so, what are the details of homes and facilities extended to such freedom fighters; and

(d) what are the future plans of Government to set up "Freedom Fighter's Home" for the benefit of majority of the old and incapacitated freedom fighters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Apart from the sanction of pension under Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme Government is also providing to freedom fighters free medical aid in Central Government Hospitals. In addition to above, many State Governments & U. T. Admns. have formulated their own schemes for welfare of freedom fighters.

(b) and (c) Government of India have set up 2 Freedom Fighters Homes, one in Delhi and the other in Pondicherry for old and incapacitated freedom fighters. At present there are nine rooms in Freedom Fighters Home located at Baba Kharag Singh Marg, New Delhi. Each freedom fighter admitted to the Home is required to contribute a portion of his pension (presently it is Rs. 100/-) to meet part of the recurring expenditure incurred on his diet, medical treatment, transport & Laundry facilities etc.

(d) Keeping in view the limited rooms in Freedom Fighters Home at New Delhi, Central Government has already requested State Govts. & U. T. Admns. to set up such Homes in their capitals. Some of the State Govts. have set up such Homes.

Conference of environmentalists at Bhopal

1649. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a conference of Environmentalists was held recently at Bhopal on the issue of ecological problems;

(b) if so, what recommendations were made by the Conference;

(c) whether it is a fact that a special study has been made on sub-human living conditions prevailing in Bangalore, Bombay, Hyderabad, Madras and other big cities of the country; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) Yes, Sir. An Environment Congress with the "Wetland and Wastelands of India" as its theme was held in Bhopal during December 29-30, 1986.

(b) As intimated by the Organisers, the Congress adopted the following resolutions:—

(i) Drawing up a 40-year Environmental Balance Sheet indicating both successes and failures in the sustainable management of the life support systems of land, water, flora, fauna and the atmosphere.

(ii) Organisation of Forum of Environmental Journalists and Communicators for the purpose of fostering the growth of journalism and communication.

(iii) Undertaking of detailed studies of a few selected urban habitates with particular reference to the problems arising from the growth of slums and sub-human living conditions so as to find solutions to this growing problem.